

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. XAVIER BECERRA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 9, 2003

Mr. BECERRA. Mr. Speaker, on Monday, April 7, 2003, I was unable to cast my floor vote on rollcall Nos. 109, 110, and 111. The votes I missed include rollcall vote 109 on Suspending the Rules and Passing H.R. 1055, the Dr. Roswell N. Beck Post Office Building Designation Act; rollcall vote 110 on Suspending the Rules and Agreeing to H. Res. 127, as Amended, Expressing the Sense of Congress that a month should be designated as "Financial Literacy for Youth Month," and rollcall vote 111 on Suspending the Rules and Passing, as Amended H.R. 1368, the Norman Shumway Post Office Building Designation Act.

Had I been present for the votes, I would have voted "aye" on rollcall votes 109, 110, and 111.

A TRIBUTE TO DANIEL COELHO
FOR 50 YEARS OF HELPING
AMERICANS WITH FINANCIAL
SECURITY

HON. JERRY LEWIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 9, 2003

Mr. LEWIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I would like today to congratulate Daniel S. Coelho, a good friend and mentor of mine, as he celebrates his 50th year as a leader in the financial security industry. As he celebrates this milestone, he can take pride in having helped thousands of families to ensure their financial future and start productive new businesses.

Many of my colleagues know that I began my professional life as an independent insurance agent, specializing in whole life insurance. It was during those early years that I came to know Daniel Coelho, who was my general agent with Penn Mutual Life and helped me learn the trade and how important these policies can be for American families.

Americans today have an entire universe of options to invest in their future, from Individual Retirement Accounts to 401k savings. But before any of these were established, whole life insurance was the most important way for American families to plan for their future. Millions of families ensured that their spouses and children would have financial security, while at the same time laying a foundation for their own retirement. And millions of entrepreneurs have used these policies as the only way to get capital to start the small businesses that are the bedrock of our economy.

Dan Coelho has spent 5 decades in this industry, establishing a record of business ethics and policy leadership that has earned the trust of thousands of families who have counted on him and his firm to lay their financial future. His advice and support has helped entrepreneurs create thousands of small businesses—many of which are now large and successful firms.

A California native born to immigrant parents, Dan graduated from University of Cali-

fornia, Berkeley in 1950 after capping his college career by being elected student body president. He went to work for Bechtel Corporation in Arkansas, where he met his future wife, Jenny Johnson.

After service in the Korean conflict, Dan entered his life insurance career with the Penn Mutual Life General Agency in San Francisco, and was appointed General Agent in Detroit in 1957. After that agency was given the company's President's Award, he was offered the Los Angeles agency in 1962. Over the next 23 years, the Los Angeles agency grew into one of the nation's largest, and was renamed Resources Financial. It now offers a full range of investment and estate planning and business services for small and large companies.

Daniel Coelho has become known to many of my colleagues as a Core Group Member for the Association for Advanced Life Underwriters, which seeks to protect these basic investments for Americans. There is no doubt that some in government have had their eye on these pools of individual financial security as potential sources for taxation, and investors should thank Dan Coelho and his fellows for watching over their interests in Washington and state capitals.

Mr. Speaker, thousands of families owe their financial peace of mind to Daniel S. Coelho and the company he has led for the past 50 years. Please join me in congratulating him for those years of success and service, and wish him and Jenny well in their future endeavors.

INTRODUCTION OF THE DNA
DATABASE ENHANCEMENT ACT

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 9, 2003

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the DNA Database Enhancement Act—legislation that will expand and improve the use of DNA analysis in criminal investigations.

As a former federal prosecutor, I recognize what a powerful tool the use of DNA profiles has become in solving crimes. In 1998, the FBI created a system of DNA profile indexes, the Combined DNA Index System (CODIS), to allow participating forensic laboratories to compare DNA profiles with the goal of matching case evidence to other previously unrelated cases or to persons already convicted of specific crimes. This database contains about 1.3 million DNA samples and has yielded more than 6,000 matches in criminal investigations.

Previously, federal law required that a state collect for analysis DNA samples from persons convicted of a felony of a sexual nature. However, the collection of samples from other felons is currently dependent entirely upon state law. The DNA Database Enhancement Act would broaden this collection requirement to include all individuals convicted of violent felonies.

In order to facilitate crime solving and information sharing among local and state law enforcement agencies, my bill would also expand CODIS by permitting states to upload collected DNA samples to the national database. In Virginia, law enforcement is authorized to

collect DNA samples from suspects being charged with violent crimes and other felonies. This has yielded tremendous results, with forensic officials making their 1,000th "cold hit" last year by matching a rape suspect to a 2001 sexual assault case.

Finally, this legislation will increase the effectiveness of DNA databases in crime solving by ensuring that law enforcement can compare DNA samples with CODIS. While most states already run comparisons on collected samples, some states have restrictions on how and when samples can be compared. This bill will increase the effectiveness of DNA databases in crime solving by removing restrictions that impede the comparison of DNA samples against established DNA databases. Where DNA is given voluntarily or obtained by law enforcement in a lawful manner, law enforcement should be able to compare those samples with CODIS.

Recently, the Department of Justice announced a proposal to spend more than \$1 billion over the next five years on DNA analysis in criminal cases. This plan, originally introduced in the Administration's 2004 budget proposal, involves a significant expansion of the FBI's DNA database. The FBI has also announced plans to request authorization to obtain pre-conviction DNA samples from states that currently collect such samples, such as Virginia, Louisiana, and Texas. These joint proposals would dramatically improve the ability to match samples recovered at crime scenes.

With similar goals in mind, my legislation, the DNA Database Enhancement Act, will make important changes to ensure that law enforcement can fully utilize the powerful tool of DNA analysis in solving crimes.

NATIONAL FORMER PRISONER OF
WAR RECOGNITION DAY

HON. MARION BERRY

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 9, 2003

Mr. BERRY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize those men and women who have served our country in battle and have been taken prisoner. Today is National Former Prisoner of War Recognition Day. It is right that we pause to honor the sacrifice of veterans like these.

However, Mr. Speaker, we must do more than honor these men and women with words. Talk is cheap. I rise to talk about the Budget that this house passed on March 21. The budget that this House passed hurt veterans by proposing long term cuts to essential health care programs. I was proud to vote against this budget. However, it is important the public fully understand why this budget is so bad for our nation's veterans.

The Budget calls for \$28.3 billion dollars to be cut from veterans health care and other spending on veterans benefits over the next 10 years. This is a disgrace. Why is this body going to cut this money? In order to pay for a \$1.35 trillion tax cut for the wealthiest Americans that doesn't create jobs or stimulate the economy.

So, that means that this Administration and the leadership of the House of Representatives has made a choice. They would rather